

Inflation in an effective gravitational model and asymptotic safety

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Abstract

© 2018 American Physical Society. We consider an inflationary model motivated by quantum effects of gravitational and matter fields near the Planck scale. Our Lagrangian is a resummed version of the effective Lagrangian recently obtained by Demmel, Saueressig, and Zanusso [A proper fixed functional for four-dimensional quantum Einstein gravity, J. High Energy Phys. 08 (2015) 113. JHEPFG1029-8479 10.1007/JHEP08(2015)113] in the context of gravity as an asymptotically safe theory. It represents a refined Starobinsky model, $\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} = M^2 R/2 + (a/2) R^2/[1 + b \ln(R/\mu^2)]$, where R is the Ricci scalar, a and b are constants, and μ is an energy scale. By implementing the COBE normalization and the Planck constraint on the scalar spectrum, we show that increasing b leads to an increased value of both the scalar spectral index n_s and the tensor-to-scalar ratio r . Requiring n_s to be consistent with the Planck Collaboration upper limit, we find that r can be as large as $r \approx 0.01$, the value possibly measurable by Stage IV CMB ground experiments and certainly from future dedicated space missions. The predicted running of the scalar spectral index $\alpha = dn_s/d \ln(k)$ is still of the order -5×10^{-4} (as in the Starobinsky model), about 1 order of magnitude smaller than the current observational bound.

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